

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yarnall (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0063204) (hereinafter "Yarnall").

Claims 3 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yarnall in view of Carroll (U.S. Patent No. 5,036,201) (hereinafter "Carroll").

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yarnall in view of Aslan (U.S. Patent No. 3,789,299) (hereinafter "Aslan").

Claims 4-10, 12-14, and 16-20, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have canceled claims 1-20 and added new claims 21-39 in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 21-39 are currently pending for consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 (b) and 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yarnall. Claims 3 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yarnall in view of Carroll. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yarnall in view of Aslan. Claims 4-10, 12-14, and 16-20, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-20 and added new claims 21-39 in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter. More particularly, new independent claim 21 is previous claim 4 rewritten in independent form. New independent claim 29 is previous claim 12 rewritten in independent form. New independent claim 31 is previous claim 13 rewritten in independent form. New independent claim 34 is previous claim 16 rewritten in independent form. Previous independent claim 17 has been renumbered as new independent claim 36.

The dependent claims 22-28, 30, 32-33, 35 and 37-39 are allowable at least because of their dependence on their respective independent claims, and the reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and objections are respectfully requested as all claims are now in prima-facie condition for allowance in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including

any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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